

for individuals of all cultures and faiths, thereby strengthening our entire Nation.

**GASOLINE FOR AMERICA'S
SECURITY ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as our nation continues to reel from the tragic effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we need to have an honest debate about our nation's energy policy and dependency on foreign sources of oil. The recent natural disasters along the Gulf Coast not only revealed the failures of our federal emergency plans, they also exposed the vulnerability of our nation's refineries and oil and gas pipelines. A comprehensive energy policy that promotes efficiency and invests in alternative energy is desperately needed. The proof is at the pump—consumers are facing soaring prices on the road, and record heating costs will await them at home this winter. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that home heating prices will experience the biggest annual increase in three decades. In my state of Minnesota, the largest natural gas utility is projected to charge 77 percent more than last year.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today appears to reflect the wishes of special interests, not the reality facing ordinary Americans. This Republican bill promotes consumption and increases pollution but does nothing to lower the cost of gasoline, reduce our dependency on foreign oil, or keep our environment clean.

It was very disappointing that the Rules Committee rejected a very important amendment, which I would have supported, offered by Rep. GUTKNECHT of Minnesota. This amendment would have added a 10 percent ethanol requirement for all gasoline sold in the United States by the year 2010. Minnesota is a leader in renewable fuels, having enacted a 10 percent ethanol requirement in 1997. Unfortunately, the House was denied the opportunity to consider this worthy amendment.

This bill severely limits the use of ethanol and homegrown fuels by creating a federal fuels list limited to two diesel and four gasoline fuel blends for the entire nation. If a state or local program wished to promote a cleaner-burning fuel, the EPA could deny the plan on the grounds that it would interrupt the fuel supply in surrounding states.

This bill also fails to protect the American consumer from price gouging. As prices soared in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, refineries cashed in. The industry reported a 255 percent increase in profits from just one year prior. Provisions in this bill, however, target only retailers, many who show only marginal gains during price hikes. These anti-gouging measures are also limited to disaster zones, leaving consumers in the rest of the country at the industry's mercy.

H.R. 3893 further exploits these natural disasters by rolling back basic environmental and public health protections. Cities with the most persistent smog problems would be allowed to delay their cleanup deadlines for many years. The bill also requires the president to des-

ignate sites for new refineries on federal land, with no exemptions for national wildlife refuges and national forests.

When it comes to our energy policy, Americans can no longer afford business as usual. The Democratic energy plan offered by Representatives BART STUPAK and RICK BOUCHER, which I support, is a reality-based solution to our energy needs. This package provides meaningful relief to American consumers and small businesses by promoting efficiency and investing in alternative sources of power.

The Stupak-Boucher bill establishes a Strategic Refinery Reserve to allow for the release of refined product during energy emergencies. This reserve would maintain a capacity of five percent of the total U.S. daily demand for gasoline and home heating oil. This would double the spare capacity that currently exists and would help curb the skyrocketing prices that disproportionately affect seniors and low-income households.

The Democratic plan provides real protection from price gouging by covering the entire production and supply chain. In addition to gasoline, it would protect against price gouging of propane, natural gas, and home heating oil. It would extend beyond disaster zones to anywhere in the country price gouging occurs.

The Republican-controlled Rules Committee demonstrated their intolerance for energy efficiency by rejecting the Boehler/Markey amendment. This amendment would have increased the fuel efficiency standards of cars and trucks from twenty-five to thirty-three miles per gallon by 2016. By reducing our consumption of gasoline we could have relieved market pressure and decreased our dependency on foreign oil.

Now is the time to invest in the next generation of efficient technologies and to move our nation toward a sustainable and energy-independent future. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3893 and support the Democratic substitute.

IN HONOR OF DOLORES ALFANO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Dolores Alfano upon her receipt of the Sister Ann Marguerite Gildea Award given by the Ministry of Caring, Inc. Mrs. Alfano's dedication to community and charitable giving make her a more than worthy honoree.

Mrs. Alfano's community service and fund raising career stretches well over 30 years. She has managed the finances of presidential candidate, former congressman and governor Pete DuPont and directed charitable giving at MBNA of America, the largest independent credit card issuer in the United States. Additionally, Mrs. Alfano served as the head of the Republican State Committee throughout the 1980s. In addition to her meaningful contributions to the Delaware political system, Mrs. Alfano is on the United Way of Delaware Board.

Tonight, Mrs. Alfano will be honored by many distinguished friends and family at a function honoring her contributions to the city

of Wilmington and the State of Delaware. Mrs. Alfano has served Delaware skillfully and diligently. Throughout her career, Mrs. Alfano has raised well over one-hundred million dollars for various Delaware charities.

Mrs. Alfano recently founded DV Alfano Consulting. Mrs. Alfano will continue to work in her field of expertise, raising money for worthwhile causes. It is truly a pleasure to know that such a motivated and altruistic individual calls Delaware her home.

I congratulate and thank Mrs. Alfano for all she has contributed to the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware.

**FOLLOW BLACK VOTERS TO
NATIONAL SALVATION**

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the recently reported unprecedented two percent approval rating of President Bush's overall performance shows that the wisdom of African American voters is escalating. To save our republic, mainstream American voters should follow this enlightened leadership. The smoke and mirrors, Disney World fantasy of Bush policies is hypnotizing only two percent of the Black voters. This emperor has no clothes on and we'll all catch pneumonia if we follow him. Where, in domestic or international history, has any group reached more insightful political conclusions and made more sophisticated democratic choices?

In the street language of my youth, the "trick bags" and "okie doke" of every day living causes a lot of suffering in Black communities. Forced to be perpetual victims African Americans have developed a greater immunity to the glitter of the phony and the fraudulent. Lessons like New Orleans are not forgotten after the media grows weary of spotlighting the truth. Blacks understand why Bush and the American majority that elected him refused to acknowledge the heroism of the thousands who spent several nights smothering under a blanket of heat and darkness in the dome and the convention center. To make the world understand better the credit these evacuees deserve for not going mad under those conditions, every basketball game this season should begin with a few minutes of silence after all of the lights in the arena have been shut off.

"Shoot to kill" was the earliest and strongest clear message to emerge from the babbling public officials responsible for the New Orleans debacle. Branding the hero victims as undesirable, provided the perfect setup for their later mistreatment by a "reformed" FEMA. The presidential executive order suspending the Davis-Bacon law and the nullification of all affirmative action regulations sent further messages informing the storm wracked Blacks that they had been permanently profiled as unworthy of the regular protections and benefits of their government.

Ninety-eight percent of Blacks understand what most Americans refuse to acknowledge: That the truly dangerous and costly corruption was not exposed by the looting of the New Orleans supermarkets. No, the massive, systematic no bidding contract process now underway on the Gulf Coast for Halliburton and